

ARCHBISHOP HUGHES ON THE WAR.

Important and Significant Sermon in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

HIS MISSION TO EUROPE.

What He Says of the Feeling There Towards the United States.

The Unity of this Great Republic Must be Preserved.

Foreign Interference Should be resisted with the Sword.

The Archbishop in Favor of a Short and Decisive War.

The Whole North Should be Drafted at Once.

Archbishop Hughes delivered a most important and patriotic sermon yesterday morning at the half-past ten o'clock mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral. The edifice was crowded to repletion, even the aisles being thronged. During the delivery of the discourse the greatest silence pervaded the vast congregation, and the clear voice of the distinguished prelate could be heard to its remotest corner. He looks in excellent health, and his step was as firm as that of a man twenty years his junior. Mass was celebrated by the Rev. F. McManis, the Archbishop presiding, with the Very Rev. William Storey, V. G.; Rev. Messrs. Maguire, Coonan, Donnelly and others, after which the Archbishop ascended the pulpit and preached the following truly patriotic discourse:

I am about to read the seventh and eighth verses of the Gospel according to St. Mark, thirteenth chapter. And when you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, fear ye not, for such things must needs be; but the end is not yet.

No nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be earthquakes in places, and famines. These are the beginning of sorrows.

I need not, dearly beloved brethren, express the comfort and pleasure which we have to-day in finding ourselves once more in the place from which we have often been banished to address you. I need not invite you to join with us in giving thanks to Almighty God for that benign providence and constant protection which He has afforded us during the dangers of a long and tedious absence from our flock. That absence has, indeed, been much longer than I anticipated, and this has, in part, grown out of the fact that when I left this country I had no estimation of the great solemnity which was to take place in the Cathedral church of the Christian world, in the commemoration of the noble martyr who preached the faith of Christ and gave his blood in testimony of his truth to the islands of Japan. The knowledge of that event reached me about the middle of winter, and prolonged my stay for several months more than I desired. I do not regret it, however, for I have been at home for a period of time, like so many of the venerable prelates of the hierarchy throughout the world, have undergone a pilgrimage of voyage to be present and take part in the most solemn ceremony since ever, Rome, since the days when St. Peter first entered it, had seen. There was a picture of what the Catholic Church is. There was a picture and at the same time an emblem; of all that authors have said or written of the unity, of the universality, of the perpetuity, of its holiness for the comfort of God who distinguishes himself even to the shedding of blood as a martyr or of Christ is not sleeping; he is inscribed on the calendars of the holy church of God who follow the Lamb.

But I presume it would not be so much in accordance with your desire that I should dwell upon this topic, leaving out another which is more immediately interesting to us all, although it is not of the same high and divine character. Next to religion, men are taught by nature to love their country, their country. The one is a duty more sacred than the other, but both have an equal relation to each other which ought not to be overlooked, and especially when our country stands in need of aid and support. It is true that I have had many opportunities during my absence of discussing the one and the other of these topics; and perhaps no one, except as on a special message, has ever had more opportunities to understand and comprehend and watch the operation of feelings in distant countries with regard to the melancholy struggle that is now agitating this land.

I had no message to deliver. Another could have conveyed the message; but none was committed to me except the message of peace, except the message of explanation, except the message of consolation, except the message of opportunity might afford me the chance of doing, in the same spirit and to the same end. I have had no opportunity, according to my discretion, and that was the only quality connected with my going. I have had no opportunity to accomplish these ends, to explain what was misunderstood, to inspire, in far as language of mine could have that effect, the minds of peace and love with the people of foreign States, and that is not a nation which I could only see and not feel. The task was not so easy as some might have anticipated; its accomplishment has not been so successful as I could have desired. Nevertheless, I trust that, directly or indirectly, my going abroad, in great part for the purpose of aiding the cause, has not been altogether without effect.

In the first place, I found, on landing in Europe, that there were few who had any just conception of the nature of the controversy between this government and a very large number of our fellow citizens. Not only had they no correct idea of those who were engaged in the struggle of what was true, and very many of them came to entertain those notions which were the result of their theory. Their theory was that a prosperous people, the people of the American people had been retarded by acts of the government to such an extent that they could bear the yoke of oppression and loyalty to the government which they had helped to establish no longer. I took every opportunity to explain to them that this was not the fact; that they themselves had not presented any specific charge to sustain that allegation; that this was not a record of a single act that could be called by the name of oppression. The answer to this was, it is impossible that so many people, so many States, with such interests involved, should have taken the ground which they have taken except forced to it by oppression on the part of the government. The next ground was, and especially in England, that it was but a repetition of the same policy that served those colonies which they had freed from the mother country; that the hundred years ago from the mother country, that the Americans had always boasted that the Revolution of 1776 was not a gratuitous undertaking, but that it was against the oppression of the British government, and that now these same people would not allow their fellow citizens to claim the same privilege; but that at any rate it was a palliative exhibition to men band together and risking all their prospects in a cause which was presented to the world as one prompted by a love of human liberty. And again, they said it was inconsistent on the part of the government to oppose this, and finally, which was the true reason, that the country was becoming too large for one supreme dominion. Better that it should be divided. Why not? Beyond this what was the other reason? It was interest—European interest. Interest is a prompting motive for all nations and for all men; but interest ought to be founded upon principle of some kind, while in this case I could find no rational, just or defensible principle on which they could found their anti-American policy. It was the desire to possess an article indispensable for the support of their armies, and to keep their war machinery from being eaten up by rust. This was at the bottom of their opposition, and when it was founded on such a basis you can understand how useless it was to argue with them. Say you came from the spot, and that the facts were thus and thus, and their opinion, formed at such a distance, was more than all your facts, and were treated as much more. There was a time when this country, now in such unenviable difficulty, was on the point of being attacked by foreign fleets, was a critical moment. The other point, the opportunity was left, every day, to

commit and mutual jealousy; not from any sense of the justice involved in the quarrel, but because it could not command the unity of power and the support of the whole people. That time passed away. It was soon felt that the opportunity was lost; and then came the second phase, which was a mutual self-congratulation that if Europe abstained from interfering Americans would themselves accomplish their own work of division without costing a penny to any other State. During that period there was anxious expectation every day of hearing of some result which would terminate this awful conflict. In the meantime came news of the wonderful efforts on both sides. In the efforts, the bravery and the sacrifice made by the South, as they called it, and in the corresponding, if not greater, efforts made by the North, which they saw on one side or the other, they perceived the reality of their theoretical phantoms of growing power which they had previously entertained, and on the existence of which our safety for the time to come depends.

Such was the state of the case, as near as I can judge, when I left Europe. I conversed with men of nearly every nation, and the general feeling was what I have described—in the first place a determination, not by understanding the question, but by the decision of European will, that the South should be right and the North wrong. That was fixed in nearly all minds, and if you met one reflective and deliberate man, you would hear the truth he was among the exceptions. I will not include in this category those who, rising in the scale of human society, felt it their duty to listen and to reflect. No one can tell to what particular cause their abstinence from interfering with us may have been occasioned by reflections on the whole matter. To help, however, these reflections, there were reports of astounding armies springing spontaneously from the very soil—from every city, and village and hamlet—so that where there was before less than fifty thousand men, there had succeeded six or seven hundred thousand. These made a stronger impression than the view of any battles in Europe or America could produce. The result is that there is no disposition to interfere if it is possible to avoid it. The only danger is that which may arise from suffering and starvation among the working classes, who are not accustomed to starve, but accustomed to labor and to live by their labor. There has been great forbearance in France and England on this score. In France, through the winter, the forbearance of the people, on the verge of starvation, is worthy of all praise. They were encouraged by hope; their friends spoke comfort to them, and persuaded them that the time was not far distant when relief would come to them. Their bishops and priests encouraged them, not merely by words, but by appealing to all who could to supply the means of passing through the winter without any crisis of famine or want. They say it was worse in England. It might have been worse in one sense, but not so bad in another. In the great district of Lancashire the operatives are suffering; they are idle by twenty-five or thirty per cent of the workmen, and the probability is that there will be still less employment. But England, with her vast resources and the knowledge that these men are not accustomed to hunger, has come to their relief, and they are not now the specially suffering class of that great nation.

At the meantime I take it that France and England are turning their attention in other directions to supply the means of employing their operatives. American cotton has been hitherto all their reliance; they have endeavored, but with little success, to cultivate it under the various soils and climates comprehended within the territories of these nations. They are turning their attention to the cultivation of flax, which at one time was a great article of commerce and manufacture. This has no doubt resulted from a hope that this great controversy in the United States would ultimately lead to some means being taken to reconstruct the country as it was before, and that with patience the ports in the Southern country would be opened and trade allowed to flow once again in its usual channels. This was the crime charged upon the Federal government, that it had forbidden the regular export and import of foreign trade with the South, and that fact they are complaining of more. The ports are open, and the people, I trust, when they have proclaimed their friendship, have refused to sell the South desired article. Whether it is the refusal of the South to sell their commodity, or of the North to open their ports for the traffic, the operatives of Lancashire are subject to the same inconvenience by the absence of cotton.

Finally, they have taken up the idea that it would be a dangerous experiment to interfere with this melancholy case; that it would cost more to them than any benefit they would realize from the result of their interference, and that already, during this period of suspension, efforts were being made that would lay the foundations of national strength which would enable this country to compete with the whole world. To these circumstances I ascribe a great deal of that forbearance and that kinder tone, for the public sentiment in both countries is marked by a milder tone towards us.

It would be impossible for me, and it would not be proper in this place, to enter into details. I can only give you general impressions. I do not know what may happen in case this war should continue as it has been since I left this country. The papers have rendered the condition of the country perfectly confused. It is very difficult for one even acquainted with this country to comprehend how the land lies; and so it is with foreigners. Nor is it in any one's power to say with absolute certainty what may happen if this war continues.

What is the prospect of its coming to an end? I do not see any prospect. There does not appear to be an issue, and it may be that God, for some design of His own, which future generations will appreciate, has permitted this calamity to scourge the country in order to bring from these results benefit to the whole human race. These are circumstances the results of which no man can fathom, they depend upon many conditional circumstances. But there is one question that ought to be clear to every mind, and it is this—That if such a warfare should continue for years, it is regarded as the price of other nations, in the name of humanity, to try to put an end to it. The people themselves should put an end to it with as little delay as possible. It is not a scourge that has visited this nation alone. Wars have been from the beginning of the world, nations against nations, and that most terrible of all wars, civil war, in which brother is arrayed against brother.

How long is this to go on? As it goes on it is afflicting a pretext for all the nations to combine against us; but even then, I say, their interference should not be permitted except in the case of intervention; but if with the sword, it should only be used in settling them at defiance. But I would say if they do interfere, and interfere successfully—if the country and the government are not sustained by every sacrifice that is necessary, then your United States will become a Poland. Then it will become divided into fragments; then the strife will hover on all the borders; every State will claim to be independent, and render itself an easy prey to foreign Powers. Oh! let not this be so. I know little of what has occurred since I left, but I have had scarcely time to look at a paper since my return, but by all accounts much has been attempted, but not much realized towards terminating this unnatural war. Volunteers have been appealed to, and they have answered the appeal, but for my own part, if I had a voice in the councils of the nation, I would say, let volunteers continue and the draft be made. If three hundred thousand men be not sufficient, let three hundred thousand more be called upon; but the army, in its fullness of strength, shall be always on hand for any emergency. This is not cruelty; this is mercy; this is humanity—anything that will put an end to this dragging of human blood across the whole surface of the country. Then every man, rich and poor, will have to take his share; and it ought not to be left to the government to plead with the people, to call upon them to come forward, and to ask if they will permit themselves to be drafted. No; but the people themselves should insist upon being drafted, and be allowed to bring this unnatural strife to a close. Other efforts will be made on the other side; and who can blame them, since they have cast their die on the issue. But, any way, this slow, lingering waste of human life should be cut short.

In the meanwhile it is enough for us to weep over this calamity; it is enough for us to pray that God is brought to an end. It is enough for us to make a sacrifice of everything to sustain the power, and the authority and the unity of the only government that we profess to acknowledge. But it is not necessary to hate our opponents, nor to be cruel in the battle; it is necessary to be brave, to be patriotic—to do that is what the country needs, and for this God will give us His blessing as a recompense for discharging our duty without violating any just laws, driving or human.

IMPORTANT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI.

Arrival of the Trade Wind from New Orleans.

THE REBEL ATTACK ON BATON ROUGE.

The First Day's Fight and Repulse of the Rebels.

THE DEATH OF GEN. WILLIAMS CONFIRMED.

Our Troops Still Held the Place at the Departure of the Trade Wind.

Sketches of the City and the Military Commanders.

THE RAIN ARKANSAS AND ALL ABOUT HER.

REBEL ACCOUNTS OF THE ACTION.

General John C. Breckinridge is a native of Kentucky. His father, who was Secretary of State under Governor Blair, of Kentucky, died in 1823. At his father's death he inherited a large estate, but through profligacy he soon became much reduced in circumstances. From the death of his father he graduated at the College of Danville, Ky., Breckinridge was supported by his father's mother. As soon as Breckinridge left college he commenced the study of law with Judge William Owsen, who gave him the commission of major in one of the Kentucky regiments which went to Mexico. In 1841 he was elected to the Kentucky Legislature, where he established himself as an orator. This position he held until the party to select him as their candidate on Congressional nomination, in opposition to General Leslie Cabell, and the result was the election of the democratic nominee by a majority of five hundred and thirty-one. In 1852 the Kentucky legislature, in formal convention, selected as his opponent General R. F. Letcher, their most available representative, a man of great popularity and advancement, and who likewise enjoyed the prestige of never having been beaten. The canvass was the hottest ever known in the State; but, notwithstanding all the efforts brought to bear against him, Breckinridge beat his opponent by a majority of five hundred and twenty-six. His brilliant success on the Nebraska bill, dated March 26, 1854, will be long remembered. It was Mr. Breckinridge's intention to be nominated in retirement after the close of his second term in 1856, and with this view he declined the Spanish mission tendered to him by President Pierce. However, he did not hesitate to accept the nomination of Vice President. His associations, however, with Jefferson Davis, Stidell, Benjamin and other traitors aroused the suspicion of the loyal members of the national legislature. If such a thing were possible, Breckinridge was a double traitor, for the fact that he did not exhibit the frankness of his co-traitors we have already named, and leave the national legislature, but continued in the United States Senate, boldly opposing the administration in its attempt to crush treason, at the same time plotting to destroy the fabric of the national Union. He subsequently vacated his seat last summer, proposed to Kentucky, and was elected to the Kentucky Legislature. His election was a triumph for military command soon placed him in that position. In the last Presidential election he was used as an instrument by which the present rebellion was brought about, by his nomination as the ultra Southern candidate for the Presidency. The South well knew that his election was impossible, but they made Breckinridge their tool.

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